

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166532

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY FM ASSIST SECY VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, GR,

SUBJECT:GREEK GOVERNMENT REQUEST THAT AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
SCHAUFLE'S APPOINTMENT BE WITHDRAWN

REF: STATE 165972

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CAME TO SEE ME AT HIS RE-
QUEST JULY 16. HE SAID HE WAS NOT VERY HAPPY WITH HIS
INSTRUCTIONS BUT PROCEEDED TO READ FROM A CABLE ALONG FOL-
LOWING LINES.

2. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THAT EVEN IF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
SCHAUFLE'S STATEMENT ON THE AEGEAN TO THE SENATE FOREIGN
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RELATIONS COMMITTEE JULY 12 DID NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF
THE DEPARTMENT IT HAD CREATED A MAJOR INTERNAL PROBLEM IN
GREECE AND LENT ITSELF TO EXPLOITATION BY THE TURKS. UNDER
THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SCHAUFLE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY
OUT HIS MISSION WITH THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY AND EASE.
ALEXANDRAKIS SAID HIS PRESENCE WOULD HARM GREEK-AMERICAN
RELATIONS SINCE HE WOULD BECOME THE CONTINUOUS TARGET OF

THOSE FORCES SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUILT UP OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. SINCE IN THE GOG VIEW, SCHAUFELLE'S MISSION HAD"BEEN RENDERED USELESS", THE GOG HOPED THE USG WOULD PUT ASIDE

QUESTIONS OF PRESTIGE AND DECIDE TO RECALL SCHAUFELLE'S APPOINTMENT. ALEXANDRAKIS CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT SUCH A DECISION WOULD BEST SOLVE THE MATTER SINCE IT WOULD PROTECT THE U.S.-GREEK RELATIONSHIP WHILE AVOIDING THE NECESSITY OF CHARACTERIZING HIM AS UNWELCOME. ALEXANDRAKIS EXPRESSED THE REGRET OF FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS ABOUT THIS MATTER.

3. I LIMITED MY RESPONSE TO INDICATE I UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY WHAT ALEXANDRAKIS HAD SAID AND THAT WE REGRETTED THE MATTER VERY MUCH. I PROMISED TO INFORM OTHERS AND SAID WE WOULD GIVE THE MATTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

4. YOU SHOULD AT VERY SOONEST TIME, OVER WEEKEND IF POSSIBLE, SEE BITSIOS AND DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH HIM, CONVEYING OUR SURPRISE AND CONCERN AT THIS NOTIFICATION, OUR BELIEF THAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELLE WOULD BE ADMIRABLY ABLE TO CARRY ON OUR TRADITIONAL CLOSE RELATIONSHIP, AND ASKING SERIOUSLY FOR CLARIFICATION OF SUCH A SUDDEN MOVE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF EFFORTS WHICH WE ON OUR PART HAVE MADE TO KEEP THIS EPISODE IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.
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5. WE SEE NO NEED FOR YOU TO MAKE ANY CHANGE IN PLANS FOR JULY 19 DEPARTURE.

6. SHOULD MATTER LEAK IN ATHENS, ALL PRESS INQUIRES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DEPARTMENT.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EVALUATION ON HOW NOW TO PROCEED IN LIGHT OF YOUR TALK WITH BITSIOS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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